



Redesign of ESL

Presented by Petra Heinz
International Graduate Student ESL Coordinator





Redesign of ESL

- A. Changed structure of the ESL Programs
- B. New ways to support graduate students and coordinators/advisors:
 - 6 main responsibilities of the Internat'l Graduate Student ESL Coordinator
 - includes examples & numbers
- C. Goals – Working together

What is this about?

I don't understand a word

I wish I were back home



The past
(International graduate students in UW classrooms)



Of course!

I totally get it!

So glad I came here



The future



The past

(International Teaching Assistants in UW classrooms)



The future



A. STRUCTURAL CHANGES

From the Modern & Classical Languages Department to the Global Engagement Office (GEO)
ENGLISH LANGUAGE CENTER (ELC)

Petra Heinz – International Graduate Student Coordinator
Responsible for Graduate ESL and ITA training

Frederica Suess – Director of the ELC
Responsible for Intensive and Undergraduate ESL



**B. Improved ESL and ITA support
for graduate students and
their coordinators/advisors**



Contact person for both:
Graduate **students** and graduate **advisors**



B. Petra Heinz's Responsibilities

1. Acts as a liaison for graduate advisors and student services

- ➔ If you don't know whom to contact to get an answer to any international graduate student related question:



1. Acts as a liaison for graduate advisors and student services

➤ email me, call me, or stop by my office



Petra Heinz
International Graduate Student Coordinator
English Language Center
Cheney International Center 14
pheinz@uwyo.edu
Phone: (307) 766-3606



2. Consults and coordinates with Departments during the recruitment process

- a) *Interviews potential ITA candidates on Zoom before TA-ship is offered.*
- b) Evaluates language performance and assists with “translating” TOEFL & IELTS sub-scores.
- c) Gives recommendations for ESL and TA training.



2.a. Interviews potential ITA candidates on Zoom before TA-ship is offered: **HOW?**

1. Let me and your GA candidate know that you would like to schedule an interview
2. If you want to interview as a committee, please include your colleagues in the email.
3. We find a date that works for all.
4. I send out the Zoom interview invitations.
5. Depending on your preference, you can either come to my office (CIC 14) or join the interview from any other computer. - In case you interview as a committee, I will come to your building.

2. b. Evaluates language performance and assists with “translating” TOEFL & IELTS sub-scores

- ▶ Total TOEFL scores of 80 and IELTS scores of 6.0 or 6.5 suggest that there is **at least ONE** weak skill area.

Examples from fall 2018:

Listening: 26

Speaking: 22

Reading: **12**

Writing: 20

80

Listening: **5.5**

Speaking: 7.0

Reading: **5.5**

Writing: 5.5

6.0



2. b. **Evaluates language performance and assists with “translating” TOEFL & IELTS sub-scores**

1. If in doubt, send me your students' TOEFL or IELTS sub-scores (and the test date).

Let me know if the students took English courses in between.

2. Have us discuss what kind of in-house English evaluation the student can get.



2.c. Gives recommendations for ESL support and TA training

1. We will make suggestions of available ESL support and ITA workshops that would be beneficial to ensure the student's academic success.
2. YOU (together with the student) decide what kind of language and TA training assistance the student can take.

2.c. Gives recommendations for ESL support and TA training

ESL Courses 3 credit hours	TOEFL sub-scores	IELT's sub-scores
ESL 1110 – Writing Grammar	Writing 19 or lower	5.5 or lower
ESL 1210 – ESL Composition (COM 1)	Writing 20 or above	6.0 or higher
ESL 1310 – Acad Listening	Listening 20 or lower	6.0 or lower
ESL 1410 – Acad Reading	Reading 20 or lower	6.0 or lower
ESL 2110 – Oral Skills	Speaking 20 or lower	6.0 or lower
ESL 3050 – Adv Writing (COM 2)	Writing 22 or lower	6.5 or lower
ESL 4010 – Technical Writing (COM 3)	Writing 22 or lower	6.5 or lower



3. Documents official Oral Proficiency Interviews (OPIs)

- ▶ I have access to all past OPI and OPIc and current Profluent+ scores

3. Documents official Oral Proficiency Interviews (OPIs)

Fall 2019 graduate applicants:

- Advise them to take the **web-based proctored OPIc** Oral Proficiency Interview before they arrive on campus.
- *Ideally, have them take the OPI before you hire them!*
- Registration instructions can be accessed at http://www.uwyo.edu/elc/international-teaching-assistants/graduate_admissions/index.html.
- This test is **MANDATORY** for all Teaching Assistants.



3. Documents official Oral Proficiency Interviews (OPIs) - summary

You and your students can take 1, 2, or 3 steps to make sure they bring the language skills they will need as teaching assistants:

1. A Zoom interview
2. TOEFL score check
3. Oral Proficiency Interview (mandatory)



4. Evaluates students when needed & makes advising recommendations for language support services

- I can assist evaluating all **four** language skills (listening, speaking, reading, writing)
- and give support recommendations



4. Evaluates students when needed & makes advising recommendations for language support services

- ▶ The sooner you communicate with me, the easier it is to set up an ESL support plan for your graduate student(s).
 - ▶ ***Don't wait until the 2nd semester or even the 2nd year. Once certain linguistic habits are fossilized (usually after a year), it is extremely difficult to reverse them.***



5. Runs the International Teaching Assistant Orientation

Fall 2018 Orientation: 3-day event

- Big success!
- Liked and recommended by 100% of participants
- Provided important knowledge for RAs and TAs



5. Runs the International Teaching Assistant Orientation

**Fall 2019 ITA Orientation: 2-day event
(= 1 full day + 2 half days)**

Tentative dates: Wed., Aug. 28 (all day)

Th. & Fri., Aug. 29 +30 (1/2 days)

(A 1/2 day will be dedicated to TAs only:

Topic: First day of class!)



6. Teaches International TA Training Workshops

Why Workshops and not 3-credit
hour courses anymore?

6. Teaches ITA Training Workshops

Workshops

- Free of charge
- Save students' time
- Can be offered in the evening and on weekends
- Cover ITA related topics only
- Open up cross-cultural opportunities
- No grades, but certificates of completion (for CVs!)
- Can be designed quickly

vs.

Credit courses

- Cost tuition
- Semester-long commitment
- Time conflict with content courses
- Broad range of knowledge not every graduate needs
- Restricted to international grads
- Assignments, tests, grades = stress
- CARF is needed

6. Teaches ITA Training Workshops

ITA Workshop 1: (16)

Giving lectures and presentations students can understand.

Strategies and tools that make your teaching and your students' learning easier.

ITA workshop 2: (9)

Strategies for an effective classroom management.

Best practices to deal with student expectations and behavior.

**Total of 63
participants**

ITA Workshop 3: (24)

How to hold a presentation that will be remembered?

Become a structured and convincing speaker.

**2 ITA training
certificates
awarded**

ITA Workshop 4: (11)

Pronunciation/Intonation. Tips and tricks to improve your comprehensibility.

Workshop 5: (3)

How to be approachable, fair, and professional at the same time?

Student interactions in office hours, FERPA regulations and grading.



6. ITA Training Workshops

BUT: Workshops can't solve critical English language issues.

➤ They focus mostly on International TA training

➤ Please keep in mind:

Some of your International Graduate Assistants will still need the language support only 3-credit hour ESL courses can provide.

C. GOALS

- Working together





Working together

- **3. I meet with departments to discuss department specific Graduate ESL needs and support options**

In addition to the 2 campus-wide Graduate ESL Informational Meetings in April and December, I had meetings with 11 departments in fall 2018.

Please contact me if you would like to schedule a department presentation or Q & A session.



Working together

➤ 2. Increase the number of ITA workshop participants

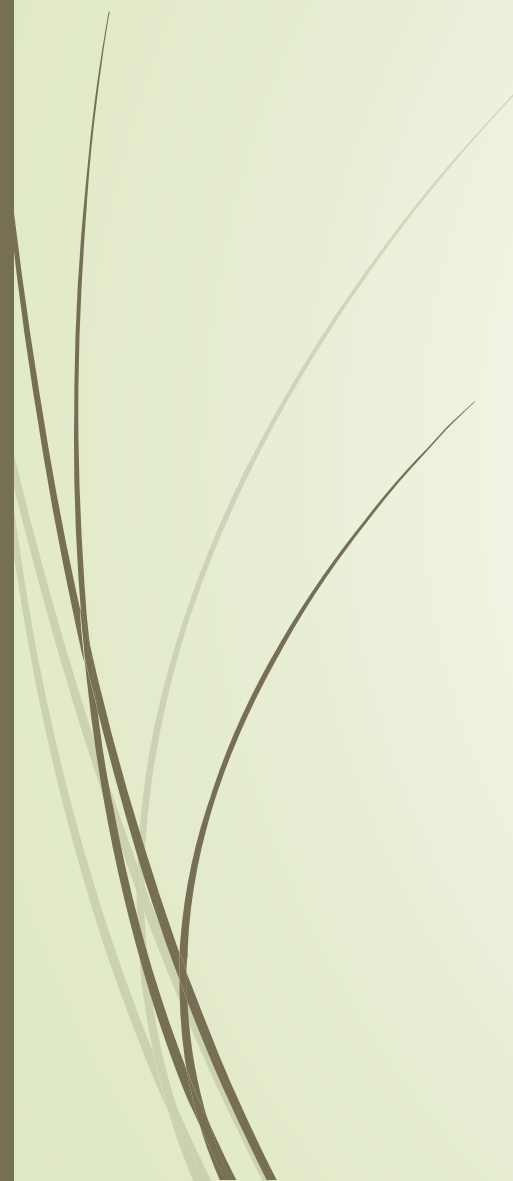
- The English Language Center team and I depend on your collaboration.
- If you don't send students to us,
- if you don't spread info about the workshops,
- If you don't make the workshop an important part of TA training,
 - ...it's very hard for us to reach and support your graduate students.

THANK YOU for your ongoing assistance!



Working together

- To provide adequate English language, classroom, and cross-cultural support for future Teaching Assistants.
- To increase **recruitment and retention** of all graduate students (Strategic Plan 2017-2022)
- To enable students to **graduate with** not only a degree in their fields, but also **good English skills**.





Thank you very much.

It is a pleasure working with y'all!

